

Uplifting Adolescents Project

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U.A.P.

Quarterly Report
October - December 1999

Development Associates, Inc.
Contract No. 532-C-00-96-00234-00

**UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT
QUARTERLY REPORT
October 1 - December 31, 1999**

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***Uplifting Adolescents Project
Jamaica
Quarterly Progress Report
July to September 1999***

BACKGROUND

In June 1996, Development Associates, Inc. was awarded a contract with a level of effort of 194 person months of long and short term technical assistance to strengthen local NGOs to deliver a multi-modal package of services to adolescents between the ages of 10-18 years to improve their social skills to become more productive and responsible citizens, and to strengthen the Youth Unit of the Ministry of Education.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The three major outputs as detailed in Section C, Work Statement of the contract articulate:

1. **Strengthening the NGOs:** The first step in implementing this project is to provide technical assistance and training to the NGOs to enable them: (a) to improve their managerial capabilities; (b) to improve or expand their program capabilities to deliver either the minimum or recommended package of services to adolescents; and (c) to apply to the contractor for grants to provide services to adolescents.
2. **Programs for Adolescents Designed & Delivered:** The heart of the project is the delivery of multi-modal packages of services to approximately 11,000 at-risk adolescents. The NGOs accepted for the project can deliver these packages of services with funding from sub-grants from the contractor. About 14,000 youth years of services (minimum and recommended) are to be provided to about 9,300 at-risk adolescents (since some adolescents receive more than one year of services, their number is less than the number of youth years). For special populations (pregnant girls, learning disabilities, etc.) who require specialized services, about 2,500 youth years of services are to be provided to about 1,700 adolescents.
3. **Youth Unit Strengthened:** The Youth Unit in the Ministry of Local Government, Youth & Community Development is to play an important part in the implementation of this project and be a central point on behalf of the government for continuing these activities after the project ends. As a newly formed office within the ministry, it needs some inputs to become strong enough to fulfill its role.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The planned activities for the report period covering July - December 1999 include:

1. Continue the Sub-Grant award and management process with those funded NGOs delivering services to the adolescent population by harmonizing the awards of each of the sub-grantees so that all project activities completion dates conclude on July 31, 2000. Operations Research proposals will be completed at different stages but will closely coincide with the overall termination of the contract which is December 31, 2000. Therefore, program phase-down and phase-out will be smooth with few transitional problems for NGO participants.
2. The Training Coordinator will continue the implementation the Revised Training Plan for the 1999-2000 period. The training schedule has been adjusted based on NGOs input to the *Assessment of the UAP Training Program*, keeping in mind time allocated to staff for training. Aside from workshops, the activities will include bursaries for short courses, regional training, group site visits and onsite training for specific functions.
3. Contribute to the strengthening of the Youth Unit, Ministry of Local Government, through the work conducted by the Social Policy Analyst; finalizing the procurement of commodities; continuing staff training and technical assistance; and coordinating and participating in Joint Coordinating Committee meetings and activities.
4. Continue the implementation of procedures for the effective management of the UAP contract funds, and demonstrate smooth implementation of these procedures. Implementation of effective cost control procedures including financial reviews of sub-grantee accounts, and demonstrate initiatives over and above those requirements stipulated in the contract agreement.

PERFORMANCE

Sub-Grant Award & Management

The main activities under this performance criterion were the continued funding of sub-grant agreements through the harmonizing of program completion dates, continuation of financial reviews, the tracking of data for new program indicators, and the general management of sub-grant implementation.

Management of UAP Sub-Grants

USAID Contract Amendment #10, dated October 29, 1999, was executed increasing the amount of grant funds available to NGO sub-grantees by US\$415,000. These funds are required to complete program activities until July 31, 2000.

An emergency meeting was scheduled between the UAP and representatives of the Women's Center to discuss serious problems being encountered in their Operations Research project. This was prompted by the report from the Center's Consultant, Geof Brown, which indicated that progress had been less than promising, and which hinted that the project's results may be rendered invalid by these problems. The meeting was cordial and candid, and consequently, consensus was reached that the completion date should be brought forward to December 31, 1999. Continuation of the project and incurring further expenditures

was not warranted. Letters confirming this decision were issued to the Director of the Women's Center and to USAID/Jamaica. An Amendment was prepared and sent to the WCJF for concurrence on November 15. In follow-up telephone discussions, the WCJF National Director indicated that she would review the projections for final cost of the project, and expected to sign and return the documents to the UAP by November 30. Based on the availability of the Consultant to write the final report, the termination date for this study was set at January 31, 2000.

Finalization of the WCJF Amendment No. 5A to the Sub-Grant Agreement. Approval was received from USAID for the Amendment, and it was finalized and issued to the WCJF on November 5. The WCJF signed and returned the document the same day. This amendment added US\$15,000 per USAID instructions to support the Coalition for Better Parenting.

Site Visits:

Field visits were made to the JRC (Clarendon) and WCJF (Montego Bay) locations. These visits were made co-incident with the Financial Assessments conducted in those locations on November 16 and 24 respectively. At both locations, we discussed current status of the programs with the teachers and site coordinators, and also spoke to some of the participating adolescents individually. Approximately 25 adolescents were in attendance at each location at the times of the visits. In both instances, the adolescents were all out-of-school adolescents. As expected, the WCJF location has similar needs to others in the same NGO, essentially the need for more financial resources to support provision of a snack and bus fares.

Site visits were also made to Ashe (Nanny Ville and Portmore), KRC (Jones Town), and WSUC (Montego Bay). Ashe continues with its regular performing arts program where there is much enthusiasm and fun generated. There was no indication of literacy program activities but Ashe claims this is completed through the building of self-esteem via the performing arts. KRC and WSUC programs are excellent activities reaching at-risk youth in inner city environments. Discussions were held with center managers, instructors and participants.

Also visited were the YMCA Caymanas Bay Glade Center, the YWCA, the JAD Youth Theatre Workshop Drama Program and Dance Programs, and the RFSO Male Adolescent Program in Clarendon. Participation in each ranged from six to thirty. Participants at the YMCA, YWCA and RFSO were observed in LRE and PFD classroom activity, while those from the JAD Youth Theatre Workshop Program used drama and dance activity as the means by which RH, and PFD issues were addressed. Discussions were held with NGO Project Officers, teachers at the various sites, as well as some of the students. Some of the problems described include transportation, low attendance at times, students taking off to engage in commercial activity especially now as the Christmas season approaches. Limited resources are also a critical issue.

While on the visit to the RFSO, the Training Coordinator conducted a three-hour stress management workshop for twelve teachers who were either directly involved with the UAP or have children in their classes who were participants in the program. The Workshop focused on stress in the classroom from both the teachers' and students' perspectives. It explored definitions of stress, behavioral and other manifestations, positive and negative ways in which we cope with stress, and effective stress management strategies.

At the invitation of the Executive Director, St. Patrick's Foundation, the UAP made a presentation on the structure and operations of the UAP, including procurement practices and the Standard Provisions applicable to USAID Sub-Grants to new staff of SPF on November 5.

Stakeholders Meeting

UAP staff attended a meeting of NGOs in Kingston (MNI, JAD, KRC, YWCA, YMCA, and YOU) to discuss the future of the UAP following termination of the Project in July 2000. This meeting was chaired by Mrs. Jane Dodman, Mel Nathan Institute, and the purpose was to further explore ways this particular group of NGOs could work together as a unit and collectively access possible sources of funding so as to ensure the continuity of the Program. UAP activity in each NGO was discussed, followed by a presentation by Mrs. Florette Blackwood, Program Coordinator of People's Action for Community Transformation, PACT. Mrs. Blackwood gave a history of the organization, its structure, mission and activities. PACT agreed to offer assistance in terms of evaluation of the organizations and proposal writing, and in exploring creative ways that the organizations could meet their needs. It was agreed that NGOs would present their best practices and programs to the UAP and PACT to assess where alliances can be made and proposals presented to meet donor interests.

Financial Review of Sub-Grantees:

A follow-up financial assessment was conducted at YOU on October 15th. It was found that while there was considerable improvement in bringing accounts up to date, there were still some payments which had no supporting documentation. The supplementary financial assessment report for YOU was prepared and forwarded to the sub-grantee on October 22.

Arrangements were made and schedules confirmed to conduct financial assessments of 8 NGOs during the month of November.

The financial assessments were completed at the offices of the six Batch I (JFPA, JRC, WCJF, KRC, YWCA, RFSO) and two Batch III (JAD, SSTC) Sub-Grantees by the UAP Accountant. Finalization and issuance of all eight reports was completed by mid December. Therefore, fourteen (14) financial assessments were conducted on the NGO sub-grantees during the semester.

System to Track & Report Data on New Indicators:

The new Goal and Purpose statements to be applied to the DA Contract were reviewed. The following table was developed to facilitate close examination of the necessary indicators, and the data collection process of the NGOs. The current capability of the NGOs to report on the data required for all the indicators, as well as the best methods of collecting the additional data have been assessed.

PURPOSE LEVEL INDICATORS MATRIX

Indicator	Measurement	Progress
Number of NGOs strengthened (in case management, accounting systems, manuals in use);	Establish matrix of measurement factors, and conduct final institutional survey to assess strengths gained, and attribute to UAP or other source.	Assessments to be conducted by STTA in early 2000.
Percentage of UAP at-risk youth who stay in school;	Number of UAP registered in-school youth who dropped out of school during program, <u>divided by</u> Total number of UAP registered in-school youth .	Format to gather data from NGOs has been implemented as of Nov. 1999.
Percentage of UAP at-risk youth who are returned to an educational institution (formal school, vocational school, apprenticeship program, etc.);	Number of UAP registered out-of-school youth who return to a school or other continuing education institution during or after program <u>divided by</u> Total number of UAP registered out-of-school youth served	Information is being gathered from NGO quarterly reports in format designed and implemented as of November 1999..
Attendance rate of at-risk youth at UAP NGO programs;	Daily attendance rates averaged over the three months in each quarter; that is number of registered students attending each day, divided by total number of registered students in the program. Add all the daily rates and divide by the number of days attendance rates were measured.	Format to gather input data from NGOs has been implemented as of Nov. 1999.
Literacy levels of at-risk youth (as measured by the % performing at or above level 4 JAMAL), for both in-school and out-of-school populations;	Number of registered literacy students who have tested as being at JAMAL Grade IV or above divided by Total number of registered students participating in the Literacy program	Format to gather input data from NGOs has been implemented as of February 1999.
Attendance rate for parents at UAP NGO parent activities (as measured by 1 parent for each adolescent participating);	Average parental participation at parent activities per quarter: total number of parents at each session divided by the number of adolescents registered in the program. Add rates for each session and divide by the number of sessions held.	Information is being gathered from sub-grantee quarterly reports as of Nov. 1999.
Percentage of NGO sites meeting UAP-defined literacy teaching standard;	Define a matrix of literacy teaching factors in the standard, and conduct a final assessment of the NGOs to see how many are operating that the minimum defined level.	Standard defined and JAMAL will conduct onsite assessment of NGO instructors, materials, and methodologies in Jan. 2000.
Percentage of NGOs with improved capability to deliver LRE program.	Define parameters of "improved capability", review initial assessments for baseline data, request intermittent update on NGO status on each parameter, conduct final assessment that establishes end of project status.	JAMAL to identify NGO training needs and provide training to instructors in early 2000.

Contacts with PTS administrators to check on data entry progress and problems was conducted. Some of the NGOs have attempted to input data on a regular basis while many have been very lax. Constant discussions with NGO staff (specifically at public forums) about the value of the PTS to them has taken place.

Several days were spent in November to design queries for the PTS to generate specific reports in response to information requested by USAID for the December R2 Review. The results of this exercise were most disappointing for UAP staff. The system contains much demographic data on participants and a significant amount of initial evaluation data on program components. What could not be attained with reliability was progression data on students. Two main problems evolved which could not be fixed in the immediate future. One, was the amount of progression data input at the NGO level on individual students. Beginning test scores for participants are input into the system, and end-of-term test are given, which data is not registered in the NGO database. Therefore, the amount of progression data on the central PTS is too unreliable for use. The second problem involved the continual registration process by NGOs as at-risk kids are enrolled in the program on a continuing basis. There is no set student class for the term nor for the same number of students. This generates scores which fluctuate so widely that the data is unreliable. The PTS does work if the NGO has the resources and commitment to input the data on a consistent basis with all its student population. In reality, most if not all NGO, do not have the necessary resources to implement a database program of this nature. Therefore, a format for requesting certain summary data from the Sub-Grantees quarterly was developed. This new format will replace the three forms previously used to request statistical data with the Quarterly reports. The new format was issued to all sub-grantees on November 30, along with reminders of the due date for the next quarterly report.

LITERACY TEACHING STANDARD

The UAP has focused on developing a "UAP Literacy Teaching Standard" which is an indicator of an intermediate result under Strategic Objective 4, Increased Literacy & Numeracy. UAP staff have worked in conjunction with JAMAL to formalize the standard in a credible and objective manner. At a later date, JAMAL will survey the NGO, on behalf of the UAP, to ascertain the percentage of NGO sites meeting the UAP standard.

During November, staff met with JAMAL to discuss a draft of the UAP standard. There were many similarities between the UAP proposed standard and what JAMAL uses for its literacy instructors. By the end of the month, the UAP was able to revise its standard and present it to JAMAL for endorsement and follow-up activities. A draft scope of work was developed by DA for JAMAL to evaluate UAP literacy teachers qualifications, methodologies and materials used, and to formulate a training plan to bring instructors up to par. UAP staff then developed a matrix to assess and score NGO instructors and teaching sites applying the standard. Scores were based on individual knowledge and observation of each NGO and its staff. Using this methodology, only 22% of the sub-grantees met the UAP literacy teaching standard.

Training Program

Computer Training:

Training providers Software Training Center (STC) and Computer Services and Hi-Tech Print have reported that 29 persons have so far participated in 46 courses. To date, twenty-three (23) of these individuals have successfully completed twenty-six (26) courses.

Workshops & Forums:

The Kingston Regional Networking Forum was conducted at Medallion Hall Hotel on October 26, 1999. The objectives remained the same as per the forums in Montego Bay and May Pen held in September. Twenty representatives from eight NGOs based in Kingston and St. Andrew attended. These NGOs were: Jamaica Association for the Deaf, Kingston Restoration Company, YWCA, Mel Nathan Institute, St. Patrick's Foundation, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Kingston YMCA and ASHE Performing Arts Ensemble. There were also representatives from the Youth Unit of the Ministry of Local Government, Youth and Community Development, and USAID, as well as Development Associates staff. Six of the eight attending NGOs were supported by their senior executives. Most participants supported the value of collaboration as the basis for the sustainability of their project activities after July 2000, and expressed interest in further discussion in order to determine the nature of this collaboration. One major concept was to join an existing umbrella organization, PACT, as a means of maintaining some sort of a UAP alliance. A decision was therefore taken to continue discussions in a meeting which took place on November 16, 1999. A representative from the Mel Nathan Institute acted as coordinator of the meeting. This group plans to continue to meet, to discuss best practices, and to seek financial support to continue UAP activities.

Conflict Resolution & Mediation Workshop

The UAP coordinated NGO participation in a Conflict Resolution Workshop conducted by The Disputes Resolution Foundation, November 3,4,9,10 and 11, 1999. Twenty-three persons representing thirteen NGOs attended. In an intense five-day forty-hour workshop, participants were introduced to mediation as an alternative dispute resolution process, in which a third party facilitates and coordinates the negotiations of disputing parties in order to help them settle their differences. Participants were taken through the Seven Step Mediation Model:- *Introduction, Problem Determination, Summarization, Issue Identification, Generation and Evaluation of Alternatives, Selection of Appropriate Alternatives and Concluding the Process*. The methodology relied heavily on role playing, enabling participants to practice each step over and over in order to facilitate learning. Participants agreed that skills in mediation would enable them to more effectively manage, and resolve some of the potentially volatile disputes that frequently occur between at-risk youth. They also said that the workshop helped to further sharpen their skills in communication, particularly in listening/paraphrasing, and reminded them that in their work, they played the role of catalysts, helping or hindering problem-solving through their actions and attitudes.

Guidance Counseling and Classroom Management Workshop

The Guidance Counseling and Classroom Management Workshop was conducted by Mrs. Patsy Edwards Robinson, Senior Guidance Counselor at the HEART/NTA Learning for Earning Activity Center. This workshop took place on December 1 and 2, 1999, at the Medallion Hall Hotel. Thirty persons representing

thirteen NGOs plus Hope for Children Development Company attended. The Agenda was designed to achieve the following workshop objectives:

- to enable NGOs to demonstrate counseling skills and strategies to better assist at-risk adolescents;
- to develop techniques to manage, facilitate and improve classroom behavior;
- to enable NGOs to demonstrate the use of specific tools which, when applied, should enhance and improve relationships between themselves and clients, i.e., students, parents/guardians and others.

In the two-day workshop, participants explored the Fundamentals of Personality and Counseling, as well as the rights of children, and revisited conflict, its manifestations and management as it pertained to the classroom. They also worked at ways to build relationships with students and strategies to address inappropriate classroom behavior. The teaching methodology utilized experiential learning techniques through games, group activities and self exploration which served to enhance learning and retention. A Summary Report has been prepared as a permanent record of the workshop's proceedings and it is expected that NGOs will use it as a staff training tool and a source of reference on basic information concerning effective counseling and classroom management.

Some Benefits of UAP Training Programs

The views of NGO leaders regarding the benefits of UAP training programs were canvassed this quarter. A summary of their responses is provided below.

COMPUTER PROFICIENCY EDUCATION - MAY 1999

- ▶ Improvement in office administration, accounting and word processing skills.
- ▶ Improvement in quality of written reports in from NGOs.
- ▶ Several participants were singled out by provider Software Training Center as excellent students on the use and application of the Excel Program.

FUND-RAISING AND SUSTAINABILITY - MAY, 1999

- More active and accelerated efforts at fund-raising by NGOs were observed through the sale of tickets for dance performances, plays, dinners, teas etc.
- ▶ The launching of an endowment fund by the YMCA (see attached).
- ▶ Efforts at collaboration and networking supporting the idea of strength in numbers (Coalition of WSUC and SSTC Montego Bay; Mel Nathan Institute's efforts to encourage NGO collaboration encouraged by the Regional Networking Forum - Kingston, October, 1999).

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT - JULY 1999

- ▶ Improved communication skills in meetings - confidence in voicing opinions and ideas and in letter writing (YMCA).
- The YMCA also reported a more highly motivated staff with improved self-esteem, demonstrating confidence in making certain decisions on their own and therefore requiring less supervision.

- ▶ Center Manager for St. Patrick's Foundation, Riverton City Center, conducted a communication workshop for the staff of the Center based on personal knowledge and skills gained, workshop material and methodology.
- ▶ RFSO reported improved relationships between staff; improved information flow; the use of some of the methodology, e.g. ice breakers and activities to enhance in-house training; confidence and improved self-esteem gained from the learning experience; greater evidence of staff taking responsibility for their own communication through improved listening and willingness to articulate ideas.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MEDIATION – NOVEMBER 1999

- ▶ The General Secretary at the YMCA reported that teachers have been demonstrating greater ability to manage conflict themselves rather than going to her with each problem.
- ▶ 100% parents at the YMCA turning out in the last quarter of 1999 based on efforts made by teachers to resolve issues between parents and students.
- ▶ An RFSO participant is now using the mediation skills in addressing some of the many conflict issues that occur in the parenting program in her community, as well as with the youth in her program.
- Use of Mediation skills at Children First to settle an issue between students belonging to a "Partner" Plan. Children First also plan to implement training of their staff in the Mediation technique later in January.

COUNSELING AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT – DECEMBER 1999

- ▶ JAD has reported that Deaf Culture Facilitators have been assisting teachers in counseling sessions with deaf kids at the Lister Mair Gilby Comprehensive High and Danny Williams Schools for the Deaf. The JAD staff have received good reports, and have been invited back to continue their work in this program.
- Teachers at the RFSO who had no formal training in counseling but who had been acting as counselors, reported that they had benefitted from the content, methodology, skills, training process, sharing and synergy generated by this workshop. It helped them to see shared problems in the classroom, and gave them new strategies they have already begun to apply. It also helped them to not feel so overwhelmed by some of the classroom issues with kids which occurred on a day to day basis.

Strengthening the Youth Unit, MLGYCD

The UAP offered the following assistance to the Youth Division:

Request for Technical Support:

During this period, primary concentration of the Social Policy Analyst continued in the areas of:

- A Definition of Youth in Jamaica. The final edition of a paper on this subject was completed in November, 1999, with findings and recommendations presented to USAID. A decision was made that USAID forward this paper to the GOJ under its letterhead. This was completed in early December. Recommendations were made regarding the need for the Youth Division to decide on a definition of 'youth'. This has resulted in action being taken to revive the National Advisory Council on Youth, and to discuss the issue with relevant agencies and organizations. Such discussions are about to be initiated and should lead to the Youth Division taking a decision on the definition of youth, which will be used to guide their work. Previously, no stated position regarding a definition had been taken. The definition of the United Nations General Assembly was most frequently used.
- Collection and co-ordination of material for Resource Center. A substantial listing of documents has been prepared and presented to the Youth Division Director. As new documentation is collected it is added to the list. These include STEP, SKILLS 2000, Youth in Agriculture, and HEART/NTA. The Youth Division has now been placed on the mailing list of HEART. The development and formulation of youth policy requires reliable and current data and information. The SPA identified and recommended the acquisition of a number of relevant documents to aid the policy planning and decision making process. Some documents were acquired.
- Issues concerning the work and operations of the Youth Unit specifically "Government's Commitment to Youth in Jamaica". A draft document was completed in November detailing agreements and conventions which are legally a/o morally binding on the government as related to youth. This document is presently under final review prior to submission to USAID for distribution. During this process, the Social Policy Analyst prepared an outline and discussion guide for use in research to examine Youth Development programs in Jamaica. The guide is used in-house by National Youth Development Officer, Mrs. Jennings, to gather data on programs.

Other areas of involvement included the following:

- research on youth development programs in Jamaica and the Caribbean, of which activities to date were:
 - ▶ Jamaica Chamber of Commerce Junior Achievement Program: Contacted and conducted preliminary telephone interview with a representative. This educational program which focuses on developing youth to become business leaders, targets high school students aged 14-18 years.
 - ▶ Jamaica Association of Youth Organizations: Contacted Mr. Edgerton Newman, and received material on the organization.
 - Regional Youth Programs: Commenced examination of material on some youth programs in Barbados.
 - ▶ Social Development Commission: Interviewed Director Youth Unit, Adinhair Jones, to identify types of youth development programs and means of collaboration with Youth Division, MLGY&CD.
 - ▶ CARIFORUM Youth Exchange Program: CARIFORUM operates out of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The program aims at strengthening the relationship between youth of the Caribbean. The young people visiting Jamaica were from St. Lucia and Dominica. Discussions surrounded the work of the Youth Division in Jamaica; the importance of regional integration; ways in which youth

in the CARICOM region can share so as to enhance and strengthen individual activity, and the region as a whole.

- Assisted with the review of a project proposal 'Development of Caribbean Integrated Approach to Youth Enterprise (CARIAYED)'. CARIAYED aims to assist countries of the region in 'testing modalities for designing and implementing sustainable national youth enterprise promotion strategies'.
- Following the attendance of DA networking workshops in Montego Bay and Mandeville, short notes on the proceedings at the workshops were prepared and presented to personnel at the Youth Division. An accompanying document which suggested that the Youth Division, in seeking to identify approaches to address the needs of unattached youth, examine organizations currently working with this group and identify ways of strengthening them so that they can expand existing programs and services, instead of the Division initiating new programs (in the short term). As a result of this recommendation, attempts are being made by the Youth Division, to examine some NGOs working with unattached/at-risk children and young people to identify the feasibility and possible methods of collaboration.
- The SPA was coopted to the Planning Institute of Jamaica's sub-committee which prepared a paper, "Youth Training and Employment" for the Government's Cabinet Retreat (October/November 1999).
- Attended meeting with Minister Bertram to assist in bringing together various agencies of MLGY&CD to explore possible networking.
- Prepared outline of an approach to track post secondary school leavers for in-house review.

Recently, there have been major changes within the Ministry of Local Government. A new department was created called the Social Policy Unit which now encompasses the areas of culture, youth, community development, welfare, and international programs. The head of this new unit, Stephen Rodriguez, has now become the boss of Gloria Nelson, Youth Division Director, which has implications for the UAP and the Joint Coordinating Committee. An orientation meeting was held for Mr. Rodriguez to familiarize him with the project and our contractual obligations. The role and scope of the new Unit is still being defined. Upon DA recommendation, USAID has formally requested a meeting with the Permanent Secretary to discuss contractual implications of the structural adjustments within the Youth Division.

Training Program: Youth Division staff are participating in the UAP computer training program attending courses offered by the Software Training Center. Staff are continually invited to and participate in all UAP sponsored workshops and attend when convenient and possible. DA is sure that computer literate staff in the Youth Division have been of great use in execution of its responsibilities within the government. Other UAP training being received by Youth Division staff appears to have been put to good use especially the inter-relationships developed with NGOs. At a future date, this relationship should lead into a partnership should the Social Policy Analyst's recommendations be executed.

Joint Coordinating Committee: Since the inception of the UAP, the Youth Division has chaired the JCC and was instrumental in appointing membership making it the focal point for youth activities among the represented organizations. Since many government agencies have youth activities, it is important for the role of each to be clearly identified and acknowledged. DA has supported the role of the Youth Division within the JCC and has assisted with all aspects of its functioning including convening meetings, inviting guests, writing minutes, disseminating documentation, conducting site visits, etc.

A Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) was on Wednesday, October 27, 1999, at the Ministry of Local Government, Youth & Community Development. The Chairperson welcomed the members present and called the meeting to order. Mrs. Claire Spence and Ms. Sheila Lutjens of USAID, as well as Miss Patrice Ford and Mr. Stephen Rodriguez of the Social Policy Department in the Ministry were introduced by the Chairperson since this was their first attendance at a JCC event. Ms. Sheron Lawson, KRC, made an excellent presentation of the UAP program to the membership which participated actively with enthusiastic discussion.

An annual field trip sponsored by the UAP for JCC members was conducted on December 7-8, 1999. Sites visited included YWCA in Spanish Town, WCJF, SSTC, and WSUC in Montego Bay, and FamPlan in St. Ann's Bay. Altogether 10 members participated in the trip which included an overnight in Montego Bay. USAID was represented by Ms. Joan Davis.

The Youth Division has received extraordinary support from Development Associates to be able to carry out its functions in coordinating youth policy. Recommendations made by the SPA cited above have been practical and useful for the Unit to carry out its role as coordinator of youth policy.

Contract Administration

(a) Initiatives of DA to assist NGOs Over and Above Contract Stipulations:

DA has generously agreed to support a shortfall of funds for grants to NGOs by contributing US\$50,000 from contract funds for that purpose. This has been possible due to DA's strict control of contract monies and policies which search for continual savings.

The UAP Football League progress to date includes the following:

- Mr. Nick Millar who was a Consultant at our Fund Raising Workshop is working on getting a donation of some 1,000 football boots, shin guards and balls from Play It Again Sports in the U.S.. He is hoping that this will happen in the Spring after soccer season is over.
- The Jamaica Football Federation conducts classes for football coaches and we are approaching them to sponsor our team's coaches free of charge.
- Once the league is started, we will approach Rene Simoes and the Brazilian trainers who volunteered last year to work with the kids.
- Mr. Paul Campbell, National Football Team Goal Keeper Coach is willing to hold clinics for UAP goalies once we are ready.
- Jody Brooks has written proposals and made requests for gear from Adidas and Nike. Both corporations have rejected our proposal.

- Calls and letters with proposals have been sent to local donors with no luck.

After much research and visits to suppliers, we have been able to source decent uniforms (shirts, shorts, socks, and accident insurance) at a cost of J\$14,000 per team of 18 players. The insurance will cover 30 players on the roster for a six month period, on and off the field.

A UAP Web Site: November saw the launching of the UAP web site to the world at large. It was placed on the Gleaner On Line newspaper. This online newspaper enjoys an average of 50,000 hits daily. The web site has generated responses both locally and internationally. The most noted is a couple from England requesting assistance in finding a placement in Jamaica to implement a part of their final studies in social work. This couple, with grant funding from London, on visiting the site sought our help. An e-mail sent to the UAP indicated that they have been placed at FamPlan for a period of six months. A similar request has also come from a Swedish couple. A cash donation of \$100 was received from a gentleman from Shanghai, China. A monthly report is received from the Gleaner On Line giving a detailed break down of visits made to the site in many categories. For the first month, the UAP site received 6,000 hits. The site now has a secure server to receive credit card donations for NGOs. Ongoing upgrading of the site will take place monthly including changes in text, adding graphics, music, etc.

A Books Donation Campaign: Presently, we have identified sources in Canada, the U.S. and publishing houses in Jamaica. A short proposal has been developed and sent to several potential donors. One major concern is transportation costs for donations. It seems that some agencies can source books but have no funds for transportation costs. This problem will be addressed once specific donations are offered. In November, JRA participated in a National Book Fair and approached international publishers. To date, donations have not been forthcoming. The International Book Bank will donate new text books by the container for a US\$12,000 cost recovery fee.

(b) DA's Responsiveness to USAID and Youth Unit Requests:

- At the request of the Program Development Specialist, UAP staff contributed to the data input and documentation required for the R2 Review.
- UAP staff met with Rebecca Adams, USAID Education Advisor, to brief her on UAP activities in Jamaica.
- USAID requested and was supplied with documentation from DA as input to design the scope of work for the upcoming UAP evaluation.
- Weekly briefing sessions from the UAP have been requested by USAID Project Officers to keep them apprised of work and progress of the activity.
- UAP key staff participated at the R-2 review conducted by USAID in December. Data on literacy were collected from all sub-grantees so that USAID would have updated information on the status indicator.
- In regard to DA's responsiveness to Youth Unit requests, please see #3 above, Youth Unit Strengthening.

Donor Coordination & Other Activities:

- Contact has been made with Dave Schmeling, FAVA/CA, to explore a possible observational travel arrangement to Florida for the last group of NGO representatives.
- Further meetings were held with Pansy Hamilton to finalize the report on follow-up to the mid-term tracer study.
- UAP staff attended the UNICEF/Jamaica Mid-Term Program Review Workshop on November 3 and 4. In addition to gaining new perspectives on the implementation of the UNICEF program in Jamaica, the workshop afforded the opportunity to discuss activities with several key NGO leaders and other officials. These included Mrs. Pauline Knight of PIOJ, Lloyd Stanley and Carol Samuels of JCRC, Joan Meade of FMU/UWI, Lorraine Blank, UNICEF Consultant, and Derven Patrick of UNICEF.
- A meeting was held with Mr. Dennis Edwards, Head of Clinical Services at MICO CARE to discuss possible attachment of UAP teachers to MICO, as well as developing an instrument that would assist teachers in recognizing learning disabilities in children in the classroom.
- UAP staff participated at the launching of a computer literacy training program implemented by HCDC and funded by PACT under a grant from CIDA.
- Rene Simoes, National Coach of Jamaica Football Team, continues to be interested in and supportive of the UAP football league. Coaching classes and some football clinics were offered once the league is underway.

SECTION B. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Contract Expenditure

The table below shows contract expenditure data, including Disbursements to Sub-Grantees, by the UAP up to December 1999. A total of approximately US\$5.4 million has been expended to date, with approximately US\$2.4 million (or 44 % of cumulative expenditure up from 43 % last quarter) of that amount being disbursed to the sub-grantees.

Table 1
Expenditure Report by Activity Budget Categories

<i>Activity Description</i>	<i>CLIN No.</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Expenditure Prior Periods</i>	<i>Expenditure This Period</i>	<i>To Date Contract Expenditure</i>	<i>Remaining Budget</i>
Project Management	001	\$1,197,656	\$985,655	\$44,044	\$1,029,699	\$167,957
Operations Research	002	\$461,537	\$289,690	\$21,168	\$310,858	\$150,679
Adolescent Programs	003	\$1,741,761	\$1,175,436	\$105,696	\$1,281,132	\$460,629
Assisting MEYC	004	\$344,978	\$170,960	\$28,280	\$199,240	\$145,737
Award Fee Pool	005	\$252,631	\$148,100	\$24,122	\$172,222	\$80,409
Sub-Grants	006	\$3,065,000	\$2,096,110	\$308,920	\$2,405,030	\$659,970
TOTALS		\$7,063,563	\$4,865,952	\$532,230	\$5,398,182	\$1,665,381

Obligations to Contract

To date, obligations to the contract are US\$6,555,807. These obligations are distributed and compared to expenditure as follows:

CLIN # & Description	Contract Amount	Obligated To Date	Expenditure To Date	Unexpended Obligation
CLINs 1-4: Institutional Contract	\$3,745,932	\$3,299,227	\$2,820,930	\$478,297
CLIN 5: Award Fee Pool	\$252,631	\$191,580	\$172,222	\$19,358
CLIN 6: NGO Sub-Grants	\$3,065,000	\$3,065,000	\$2,405,030	\$659,970
TOTALS	\$7,063,563	\$6,555,807	\$5,398,182	\$1,157,625

SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY REPORTS
UAP SUB-GRANTEES
September to November 1999

General

This quarter saw the resumption of teaching activities for both in-and out-of-school adolescents in all the grants, for the final year of the project. It was also the first time that so many adolescents who had already participated in project activities continued into a follow-on year. Many NGOs reported that this made a difference to the start-up in the new school term, and to the general behavior of the classes.

Recruitment Progress: Regular and Special Populations Grants

Slight increases in recruitment were reported this period and, consequent to a new reporting form being introduced there will also be some corrections to the recruitment reports previously submitted. Some of these corrections are reflected in the table below. The reports from the Sub-Grantees show that by November 30, 1999, a total of 15,100 adolescents had been registered in the regular and special populations programs, an increase of 980 adolescents over the 14,120 reported at the end of August 1999. This increase is however, only partly due to new registrants: much of it is due to under-reporting in previous periods.

Comparison of Sub-Grantee Recruitment Targets and Accomplishments

Sub-Grantee	Recruitment Target	Accomplishment Nov. 30, 1999	Percent Accomplished
<u>Batch I (30/38 months implementation)</u>			
FamPlan Jamaica	780	999	128%
Jamaica Red Cross	1,600	1,499	94%
Women's Centre of Jamaica	2,300	2,317	101%
Kingston Restoration Company	970	745	77%
YWCA of Jamaica	925	814	88%
Rural Family Support Organization	930	1,382	149%
BATCH I TOTALS	7,505	7,756	103%
<u>Batch II (27/35 months implementation)</u>			
Kingston YMCA	546	648	119%
Western Society/Upliftment of Children	1,060	940	89%
St. Patrick's Foundation	1,600	1,474	92%
Youth Opportunities Unlimited	1,130	1,157	102%
Mel Nathan Institute	1,205	1,153	96%
Ashe Caribbean Performing Arts Fdn.	1,200	1,196	100%
BATCH II TOTALS	6,741	6,568	97%
<u>Batch III (18/26 months implementation)</u>			
Jamaica Association for the Deaf	200	230	115%
Sam Sharpe Teachers' College	540	546	101%
BATCH III TOTALS	740	776	105%
Project Totals	14,986	15,100	101%

Batch I sub-grantees have so far registered 7,756 adolescents (103.3% of the revised targets). Batch II and Batch III sub-grantees have respectively reached 6,568 (97% of the revised target), and 776 (105%).

As a result of the new reporting, it now appears that seven sub-grantees have exceeded 100% of their target recruitment levels, while six other are over 80% of their targets. Only one sub-grantee is below 80% of its target. By the next report, all the recruitment data are expected to be correctly reported and up to date. Corrections will be made to this report as necessary, at that time.

The 15,100 adolescents reported registrants up to November 30, 1999 represent 130% of the UAP target of 11,000 over the life of project (up from 128% last quarter). Of the regular at-risk adolescents project target of 9,300, the 14 sub-grantees have so far registered 12,688 (136% - up from 127% last quarter). Of the 1,700 target for the special populations, 2,412 adolescents (142% - up from 136% previous quarter) have been registered. Below is a comparison of the recruitment accomplishments compared to sub-grantees' targets and the UAP targets, broken out by regular and special populations.

	<u>Sub-Grantees' Targets</u>		<u>UAP Overall Targets</u>	
	Regular	Spec. Pop.	Regular	Spec. Pop.
Target	12,113	2,873	9,300	1,700
Aug 31 Achievement	12,688	2,412	12,688	2,412
Percent Achieved	105%	84%	136%	142%

Financial Disbursements

Financial disbursements to the Sub-Grantees up to the end of December 1999 have amounted to approximately US\$2.41 million, or approximately J\$88.6 million. Disbursements this period amounted to approximately US\$ 310,000, or J\$ 12.1 million.

An additional US\$757,000 was obligated to the DA contract for the Sub-Grant fund, including the US\$ 50,000 which Development Associates released from its contract budget to supplement the Sub-Grant Fund. The amount of US\$15,000 was also provided by USAID specifically for financing the 1999 Parents Week activities by the Coalition for Better Parenting. This amount was added to the Women's Centre of Jamaica's regular sub-grant. The Sub-Grant Fund now stands at US\$3.65 million (\$2.6 mil. Original sum, plus \$415,000 supplement from USAID and \$50,000 released by DA).

Disbursements to the sub-grantees (US\$2.41 million) by DA represent approximately 94.3% of the advances (US\$2.55 million) received by DA from USAID for sub-grants. The unexpended funds from the sub-grant fund (\$3.065 million) is now US\$660,000 which will suffice for the Sub-Grantees' needs up to July 2000. Some Sub-Grantees may however need additional obligations to effectively complete their programs.

Sub-Grant Status Summaries

Summary program reports of the sub-grantees for the September to November 1999 period are attached, along with publicity excerpts and other interesting sub-grantee material.

**STATUS SUMMARIES
OF
UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT
SUB-GRANTEES' QUARTERLY REPORTS**

for the quarter
September 1999 to November 1999

and

PUBLICITY EXCERPTS

January 18, 2000

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Jamaica Family Planning Association

Project Title:

Young Adolescents Empowerment Project

Brief History of Organization

Jamaica Family Planning Association (FAMPLAN), established in 1957, has for over forty years been the NGO in Jamaica providing a high standard of family planning services, at first island-wide and since 1967 in the parishes of St. Ann, Trelawny, St. Mary and Kingston. FAMPLAN is the Jamaican affiliate of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the leading family planning organization in the world. One of FAMPLAN's purposes is "to educate the Jamaican public in methods of voluntary family planning and child spacing compatible with the particular religious and moral beliefs of different individuals".

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$4,735,000

Amount Disbursed to 12/31/99: Ja \$3,595,383

Period of Sub-Grant:

June 1, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

4 deprived communities and one primary school in St. Ann's Bay (St. Ann), and two all age schools and two communities in St. Mary.

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Peggy Scott, Chief Executive Officer
2. Flo George, Program Coordinator

UAP Project Officer

Sam Dowding, NGO Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to improve the quality of life for young male and female adolescents in the parishes of St. Ann and St. Mary by providing them with the education and services which will enable them to become healthy and productive members of their communities.

Status Update:

Famplan is currently serving 591 adolescents (453 in-school and 138 out-of-school). The in-school program is delivered at 5 schools, 3 in St. Ann and 2 in Annotto Bay in St. Mary. Ten new students have joined the program this quarter.

Educational efforts this quarter have included a parenting workshop held in November, which was attended by the parents of those adolescents in the literacy program. "Communication within the Family", "Our Roles as Parents" and "Let's Talk about Sex" were the topics discussed. The meeting was well attended and received by the parents, who have requested additional workshops. Peer Education training continued, with weekly sessions at Ferncourt High, and were concluded in November, with a graduation ceremony. Marcus Garvey Technical has been added to the list of schools at which the program is delivered, since many of last year's participants have transferred to this school. The general conduct and demeanor of the in-school students have shown marked improvement. Students are more relaxed, and less repressed and aggressive.

At Annotto Bay All Age, program implementation support is received from the US Peace Corps volunteer, and from the Jamaica AIDS Support (JAS) office in the community. Both JAS and St. Mary Bananas have agreed to provide material and volunteer support for initiating a homework assistance program at the school. Twenty four students have been selected to participate in this program.

The LRE program at the Youth Resource Learning Centre has received a boost with voluntary assistance being provided by two senior citizens who each donate two days per week of their time to support the staff member in this program. 24 students are participating in this program this quarter. Exposure to new aspects of Jamaica's rich culture during Heritage Week was well appreciated by the students. Counseling continued in the communities of Windsor, Annotto Bay and Mount Edgecombe, with both parents and adolescents. As a consequence, the need for a basic school in the Windsor community has been identified, and the Salvation Army, Bethel Gospel Chapel and Food for the Poor have been contacted to see how this need could be addressed.

Two students from the LRE program have started attachments as apprentices at a cosmetology and auto-mechanic garage in St. Ann's Bay, in November.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Jamaica Red Cross

Project Title:

Adolescents and Family Outreach

Brief History of Organization

Established in 1948 as a branch of the British Red Cross, and in 1964 as the National Organization, the JRC has as its mission "to prevent and alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, and ensure respect for the human being". It has branches in each parish of Jamaica, and primarily operates programs in Disaster and Emergency Management, First Aid, HIV/AIDS prevention, Health promotion, Youth Training and Development and Meals on Wheels. It has reached over 15,000 youth over the 1993-1996 period with its HIV/STD and other Youth Education/Counseling programs.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja 7,820,000

Amount Disbursed to 12/31/99: Ja\$6,001,329

Period of Sub-Grant:

June 1, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Central Village (St. Catherine); Kingston, Maypen (Clarendon), Montego Bay (St. James - 1997-98 only), and Yallahs (St. Thomas)

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Yvonne Clarke, Director-General
2. Lois Hue, National Youth Director

UAP Project Officer

Sam Dowding, NGO Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to improve the sexual behavior pattern of youth by empowering them through the provision of literacy, numeracy, and marketable skills, and enabling them to become more responsible and productive citizens.

Status Update:

This period has seen a re-commitment of staff and parents to providing a high quality education to the children served by the project. A parenting workshop was held at the St. Catherine center in November, with 29 participants including mentors. The subjects of Communication, the Value of Education, Motivating your Child, and Adolescent Sexuality were treated. Another was held in Clarendon in October, and the 15 parents in attendance discussed the problems being faced, and potential solutions. Consequences of these discussions were the institution of a Student of the Month Award, establishment of a "House" system for students, and a monthly Award for Best Attendance.

Other parenting workshops were held in St. Thomas in November and Kingston in September. Feedback from the parents was very exuberant, and appreciations were expressed for the program. With the assistance of the Advisory Committee, JRC has negotiated the donation of food supplies to the adolescents from Nutrition Products Ltd. Timetables have been re-arranged where necessary, to facilitate smaller class groups, and indications are that discipline in classes has improved. The apiculture program was hampered by the "virroamite" pest which decimated the bee colonies nationally. JRC lost 3 of its 5 colonies as a result. Nevertheless, honey produced was bottled, labeled, and sold and displayed by JRC locally and internationally.

76 students who have completed the UAP program, have been placed in schools in all 4 parishes served, including 2 to HEART/NTA and 3 to apprenticeships. Contact has been maintained with these students, to provide homework and other support.

JRC held a staff development seminar in November with the theme "Acknowledging our Strengths and Weaknesses". Representatives from all centers were present, and enjoyed fruitful interaction and sharing of experiences, problems and solutions.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation

Project Title:

Youth Activity Program

Brief History of Organization

Started in 1978 as the Program for Adolescent Mothers in Kingston, the organization has grown to a national one with centers in 7 parishes, and an additional 14 outreach stations nation-wide. In 1991, the WCJF was incorporated as a private company. Several evaluations have validated the effectiveness of the internationally heralded "Women's Centre" model for rehabilitating pregnant teens. The WCJF implements several programs targeted at adolescents, including Walk-in Counseling and referral, Counseling and referral for young baby fathers and parents of the teen mother, and coaching towards CXC exams for eligible teen mothers.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja 13,700,000
Amount Disbursed to 12/31/99: Ja\$11,410,038

Period of Sub-Grant:
June 1, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Port Antonio and Buff Bay (Portland), Mandeville (Manchester), St. Ann's Bay (St. Ann), Montego Bay (St. James), and Savanna-la-Mar (Westmoreland)

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Mrs. Pamela Mc Neil, National Director
2. Mrs. Jacqueline Anderson-Robinson, YAP Coordinator

UAP Project Officer

Sam Dowding, NGO Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to improve the sexual behavior pattern of youth by empowering them through the provision of literacy, numeracy, and marketable skills, and enabling them to become more responsible and productive citizens.

Status Update:

The main focus this quarter has been on maintaining the present level of enrolment, visiting delinquent participants' homes, and beginning the mentoring program. A total of 579 students are currently enrolled at the five centers. Mentors are currently being sourced in each community at all centers to put this program off to a solid start. Professions of those recruited to date include mechanics, electrical technicians, dressmakers, nurses and businesspersons. Participants have responded positively to the attention they receive from their mentors.

Heroes Day/ Heritage week were celebrated with students being encouraged to write stories imagining themselves as the national heroes, cultural presentations and lessons on the folk songs of Jamaica. Parenting Week was also celebrated with speakers invited from Children Services and the Probation Offices.

Classes in craft work, such as making straw hats, pencil holders, embroidery, tie and dye, mat making, continued. Literacy education concentrated on phonics, reading, building words, parts of speech and fractions. Flash cards, bingo, role plays and crossword puzzle games were used to teach and reinforce learning. Reproductive health topics covered included human sexuality, peer pressure, and contraception.

Personal and Family Development sessions dealt with the family structure, and goal setting for adolescents, in addition to introduction of the mentoring program.

Problems faced by the centers continued to be the indiscipline of some participants, and inadequacy of financing to provide for snacks and transportation expenses. Incentives are being developed to promote improved discipline and participation. Increased parental involvement is also expected to have a positive impact in these areas.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Kingston Restoration Company

Project Title:

Uplifting Adolescents in Inner Kingston and Jonestown

Brief History of Organization

KRC was established in 1990 primarily to assist in projects for the repairing or restoration of dilapidated, derelict or damaged buildings in Kingston, and to provide infrastructure amenities, parks and recreation areas to improve the overall appearance of the capital city. As part of this mission, KRC established a "Neighborhood Initiatives Program" which targeted social conditions in the inner-city communities in Kingston. The Youth Educational Support Systems (YESS) project, homework and scholarship programs have resulted from this initiative. KRC has also been instrumental in creating jobs in the manufacturing sector.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja\$ 6,800,000

Amount Disbursed to 12/31/99: Ja\$5,484,147

Period of Sub-Grant:

June 1, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Higholborn Street and Jonestown. (Kingston)

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Morin Seymour, Chief Executive Officer
2. Sharon Lawson, Project Manager

UAP Project Officer

Frank Valva, Chief of Party

Project Goal or Purpose

to develop a group of new leaders with the skills necessary for spear-heading the regeneration of their communities and the development of a new downtown.

Status Update:

Highlights this quarter included an Opening Day ceremony in September, attended by students, parents, members of the community and special guests, as well as health Fair, sponsored by the Soroptimist Club, and an Effective Parenting workshop, supported by a grant from the Coalition for Better Parenting. Sigma Investments filled the over 54 prescriptions issued at the Health fair, and Dr. Toby of Nuttall undertook to do further medical examinations of referred patients at no charge. 113 persons attended the Parenting workshop in November, including representation from other agencies such as Addiction Alert, the Police, HEART/NTA, JAMAL, and the Downtown Ministers Fraternal.

The YESS program currently serves 256 students, of which 137 are returning from last year, and 119 are new. New teachers have been hired in the disciplines of reading, computer instruction, counseling, math and science. The NET program has 92 new students and 22 returning from last year. The Ministry of Education curriculum, with some methodological enhancements, is being used with these students. Teachers are exposed to training sessions on teaching methodologies and development of lesson plans every Friday. The mentoring program has been designed, and is ready for implementation as of January 2000. Training in needle-craft and leather-work are also anticipated to start in January.

A behavior modification program has been set up by the Counselor on staff, and will be supplemented by the participation of counselors from Family Life Ministries, who have been in attendance weekly since September. Counseling has been instrumental in improving the irregular attendance and anti-social behaviors of some students.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

YWCA National Council

Project Title:

"Y" Adolescent Development

Brief History of Organization

Founded in Jamaica in 1923, the YWCA is an affiliate of the World YWCA. Its mission is "to promote the well being of women and girls and unite them in a worldwide fellowship which seeks fullness of life through physical, mental, social, spiritual development and through service to others and the nation". The YWCA has branches in Kingston, Montego Bay, Spanish Town, Christiana (Manchester) and Darliston (Westmoreland), in addition to Y-Teens clubs in over 24 schools. The YWCA operates programs such as the Early School-leavers' Institutes, a Basic School, After-School Care and Literacy and Continuing Education evening classes.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja 7,050,000
Amount Disbursed to 12/31/99: Ja\$5,763,129

Period of Sub-Grant:

June 1, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Kingston, Spanish Town & Watson Grove (St. Catherine) and Montego Bay (St. James)

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Mildred Dean, General Secretary
2. Violet Jones, Spanish Town YWCA
3. Ariadne Collier, Kingston YWCA

UAP Project Officer

Sandra Cooper, Training Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to improve the social and job skills of at-risk adolescents in Kingston, Spanish Town and Montego Bay on a sustainable basis so that they may become more responsible and productive citizens.

Status Update:

Students have settled into their work program this quarter, showing greater application, focus, and motivations. A total of 543 adolescents attend the three centers: 128 in Kingston, 205 in Spanish Town, and 85 in Montego Bay. An additional 20 volunteers have assisted at the centers this period. These include adults and sixth form students in Kingston and Spanish Town. These give between two and four hours each of their time weekly.

The football teams formed at the Kingston and Montego Bay centers have participated in training sessions and a football camp (in Montego Bay). YWCA observed the "Week against Violence" in October. Kingston participants presented a dramatization titled "Let peace begin with me", which was attended by parents, staff members and other YWCA members. These drama activities have helped to reduce aggressive behavior so common in our adolescents.

The teachers report that significant improvement is being seen in the achievements of students in the literacy area. Beginners have moved up to intermediate, and functional readers, with two exceptions have moved up to the passing standard, at the Kingston Center. Similar success has been seen in Spanish Town, 25 students have moved on from this center to the public schools, entering in grade 6 (3 students), Grade 7 (4), High School (3) and Junior High School (15).

Discussions on sexually transmitted diseases formed the core of the reproductive health program delivered at all three centers. The general improvement in hygiene observed in the participants appears to be a direct result of the personal and family development sessions.

Ten students participated in a Social Development Commission forum on STDs, and in Spanish Town, the adolescents received a certificate of participation for their entry in a banner competition on the theme "Look, Listen, Live".

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Rural Family Support Organization

Project Title:

Clarendon Youth Development Program

Brief History of Organization

Established in 1986 as the May Pen Women's Centre, and subsequently as the Teenage Mothers' Project, the evolution of this organization culminated in October 1996 with the Rural Family Support Organization being launched. Significant and continuing support has been received from the Bernard van Leer Foundation, and the UWI Centre for Early Childhood Education. In keeping with its mission to "undertake child care training programs for families and care givers, and to provide guidance and counseling to male and female adolescents in Jamaica's rural communities", the program has addressed the needs of the adolescent mother, their families and babies. Concerted efforts to include adolescent males, resulted in the establishment of the Male Adolescent Program in 1995.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja 8,900,000
Amount Disbursed to 12/31/99: Ja\$7,455,481

Period of Sub-Grant:
June 1, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity
Denbigh, May Pen, and five schools in Clarendon.

Sub-Grantee Contacts
1. Joyce Jarrett, Director
2. Utealia Burrell, Counselor

UAP Project Officer
Sandra Cooper, Training Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to improve the self-esteem of adolescents by helping them to see themselves as worthwhile individuals, capable of setting goals and working towards reaching such goals; and to support the achievement of economic independence by adolescents through providing vocational and technical training, literacy and remedial work and counseling".

Status Update:

The program continued in nine schools in Clarendon, and at the Male Adolescent Program (MAP) and Female Adolescent Program (FAP). 494 students are currently served in the schools, while 84 (32 males, 27 females and 25 part-time students) are served in the out-of-school program. More than half of the part-time students tested at level 1 and below in reading (15/25) and math (13/25). However, two students, who had learning disabilities have made remarkable progress from no knowledge of the alphabet, to now being able to write and spell.

Of the other out-of-school adolescents, the majority of the new students fall into Level 2 and below in both mathematics and reading, while the repeaters are largely in level 3 and above, with 4 males and 6 females falling below this level.

The Self-Esteem scale was administered to the out-of school students and to 20 students at each school. The results show that the average scores were between 46% and 79% of the maximum attainable. Highest scores were in the MAP and FAP, and these were probably due to the influence of the repeaters in these groups, who have benefitted from the program last year.

Students are now given special responsibilities as prefects and class monitors, which help to increase their leadership skills.

Heritage Week provided opportunities for the adolescents to research and role play on the National Heroes, and to see aspects of Jamaica's history and culture. Songs and poems were composed and presented by staff and students.

Staff continue to give of their time in the communities: a Health fair was put on at Treadlight Primary, with a display on reproductive health. Similar activities were undertaken at Four Paths Primary and Junior High.

Woodwork and needlework continue to be the main focuses of the pre-vocational training, with leather-craft also given attention. A "points" system has been put in place, where merits and demerits are awarded according to the quality of work. This system has motivated better performance, with students striving for perfection.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Kingston YMCA

Project Title:

Kingston Youth Development Programme (YDP)

Brief History of Organization

The YMCA in Jamaica was founded in 1920, with separate branches all over Jamaica. The Kingston YMCA has a mission "to promote the welfare of young people through spiritual, social, intellectual and physical activities, geared to development of spirit, mind and body." Kingston YMCA is the largest and oldest of the YMCA branches in Jamaica, and has been in existence since 1940. It has a similarly long history in community and youth development, with several notable projects such as the "Star" boys, Street Corner Boys, and Car Wash programs in the 70s. Main features of these programs to assist those special populations have been basic education, mental, physical and spiritual development, and skills training.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja 6,160,000
Amount Disbursed to 12/31/99: Ja\$4,610,737

Period of Sub-Grant:
September 15, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity
Hope Road and Rosedale Avenue, Kingston

Sub-Grantee Contacts
1. Sarah Newland Martin, General Secretary
2. Anthony Brodher, Coordinator

UAP Project Officer
Sandra Cooper, Training Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose
to promote the achievement, by special population adolescents, of their potential to contribute positively to the social and economic development of Jamaica.

Status Update:

The YMCA served 325 adolescents in the last quarter: 187 at Hope Road, 117 at Rosedale and 21 at Caymanas. The programs at both Hope Road and Rosedale were oversubscribed, and many of these were referred to Kingston Restoration Company and JAMAL. With the assistance of 10 volunteer teachers this period, the YMCA was able to achieve smaller class sizes, and provide more individual attention to needy adolescents.

As the program content and methodology becomes more varied, the self-esteem of the adolescents has been boosted. Computer classes have started at Hope Road, and teachers are in training on weekends to ensure that they are computer-literate. Two more computers have been donated to the Y by the Kiwanis (Ladies) Club of New Kingston. More than 30 youth are in training for the football team. Students also participated in the YMCA/YWCA World Week of Prayer, National Parents Week activities, an AIDS Conference held at the National Arena, and the Earth Science Exhibition at the UWI Mona campus.

Rosedale students continued to be given opportunities to show off their catering skills, and earn some income for the Center. With assistance from parents and the St. Andrew Rotary Club, students have also toured the Scientific Research Council's Food Technology Institute, and Sonic Sounds Recording Studios. A Cadet Corps has also been formed at this location, and 18 students are being groomed to sit some subjects at the June CXC examinations.

Parents and guardians have been encouraged to participate more, and their cooperation has increased significantly in the last six months.

The YMCA is putting a special effort into identifying and securing sources of continuing financial support after July 2000. These will include collaboration with other NGOs, and re-application to HEART/NTA for a full community skills training program, including food, clothing, computer and welding. It is expected that over 2000 current students will need to be retained in the program after July 2000, for an additional year.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Western Society for the Upliftment of Children

Project Title:

High Risk Children - Education Project

Brief History of Organization

The Western Society for the Upliftment of Children and its co-Grantee in this project, Children First, are new NGOs established in April 1997 upon the reformation of the Save the Children (UK) program in Jamaica. Both organizations formerly operated as branches of SCF(UK) in Montego Bay and Spanish Town respectively. The two programs have in recent years successfully implemented projects targeted at high-risk children, financed by the World Food Program, under the Skills 2000 Poverty Alleviation program. The programs have enjoyed significant success in returning at risk adolescents to school and motivating them to remain there.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$9,480,000
Amount Disbursed to 12/31/99: Ja\$7,191,620

Period of Sub-Grant:
September 15, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Montego Bay: WSUC Office and 4 schools
Spanish Town: Children First HQ and 2 schools

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Glenda Drummond, Coordinator, WSUC
2. Claudette Pious, Coordinator, CF

UAP Project Officer

Frank Valva, Chief of Party

Project Goal or Purpose

to enable street/working children and at-risk adolescents to have access to and benefit from a comprehensive program that will assist them to realize their potential as more responsible and productive citizens of Jamaica.

Status Update:

During this quarter, the WSUC/CF combination served 773 adolescents, comprising 323 special population youth (154 of whom were new). 450 regular population adolescents were registered of which 257 were returning from last school year.

WSUC now has all students and staff in one physical location for the first time, due to Grant funding. Early in the term, orientation, including revision and redesigning of the rules and curriculum were conducted. After testing, the students have been assigned to five groups: 1 each at Levels 1, 3 and 4, and 2 groups at level 2. WSUC is looking for apprenticeship and skills placements for 6 students who have attained level 4.

Conflict resolution training, both at the UAP, and with the material from PALS, was conducted this quarter. The almost daily outbreaks of fights among the participants made this very necessary and timely. By mid October, the benefits of this training were evident. Pre-vocational training has continued even in the face of the space limitations, but has done well with hassocks, dollies, curtains embroidery and pillows being the main items produced.

At CF, barbering and cosmetology have served as rewarding and motivational experiences for about 30 students this period. 6 of these have received employment as a result. 20 youth attended the World Food Day function at Hope Gardens, on the theme "Youth against Hunger". The children were also actively involved in Child Rights Week, and participated in the Police Training program. Other presentations were made to the group by Dr. Philip Mighty, a dentist, by the Police Traffic Department, and the Spanish Town Fire Department.

Voluntary assistance has been received from Sixth form students at St. Jago High School, and a UTech student. These experiences have motivated both the volunteers and the CF students. Material support has been received from Terra Nova Hotel, Shell, CIDA and Rotary Club of Spanish Town. The latter will finance a novelty craft project as of January 2000.

Meeting the recurrent expenses of the project, including the Executive Directors' salaries, continues to be the most significant problem facing these two NGOs.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

St. Patrick's Foundation

Project Title:

Educational & Training Programme Enhancement and Development

Brief History of Organization

St. Patrick's Foundation is a non-profit organization serving the Western Kingston inner city communities of Olympic Gardens, Tower Hill, Seaview Gardens and Riverton City. The Foundation was established in 1983, and currently boasts 5 resource centers and a home for the abandoned elderly. Its mission includes "to alleviate human suffering and to better the quality of life with emphasis on the human person". In 1995, it placed students in over 650 jobs, and had a direct benefit on the lives of at least 2,000 inner city residents. The foundation was honored in 1995 for outstanding National Service.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$7,280,000
Amount Disbursed to 12/31/99: Ja \$5,713,216

Period of Sub-Grant:

September 15, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Olympic Gardens, Riverton City, Seaview Gardens, and Calalloo Mews (all in Kingston)

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Roxiline Spence, Chief Executive Officer

UAP Project Officer

Frank Valva, Chief of Party

Project Goal or Purpose

to empower at-risk adolescents through educational and skills training programs, with tools that will allow them to transcend the constraints of their socio-economic environments in order to become more productive and responsible citizens.

Status Update:

This program suffered some setbacks in the period, with the resignation of the St. Margaret's Program Director in August. Mrs. Johnson had been with the program from its inception in 1997. Some other teachers were also changed, thus the program re-started late in September. A new Guidance Counselor has also been hired.

Testing was still underway in November of the new students who were admitted to the program. 20 students from the last academic year have been placed in high schools.

The renovation of the Center to create a new Resource Room has been completed, and air-conditioning is in place. Furniture is to be sourced for this room and the new Gazebo classrooms.

Efforts are on stream to obtain voluntary assistance from University of Technology students in remedial teaching. A group of students from this university were on a tour of the St. Margaret's Center this period. A visiting student from Canada provided remedial reading assistance to the at-risk adolescents during this period.

With the hiring of a new computer teacher, plans are underway for the resumption of literacy teaching, using the computer laboratory, as of January 2000.

Donations of pens, pencils, and rulers, as well as biscuits, buns, and bread were made by the staff of National Bakery, who toured the Center in September.

The new Guidance Counselor has been very busy with all the afternoon classes, and with private counseling of problem students. Subject areas covered this term have included Healthy Self-Esteem, and Building Health Habits.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Youth Opportunities Unlimited

Project Title:

Advancing the Opportunities of In-School Youth

Brief History of Organization

Established in 1991, YOU is a non-profit organization promoting mentoring as its primary means of opening the world of opportunity to at-risk youth. YOU aims to assist high school students to achieve their potential in school by providing career guidance, emotional support, positive role models and counseling, and to ensure that through the mentoring relationship every adolescent is provided with the emotional support in order to build self-confidence and self esteem. YOU enjoys significant private sector support, and also earns about 60% of its operating revenue from its Christmas card program.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$6,650,000

Amount Disbursed
to 12/31/99: Ja\$5,302,300

Period of Sub-Grant:

September 15, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Twelve schools in Kingston and Portmore: e.g. St. Hugh's, Merl Grove, Kingston Secondary, Kingston College, Excelsior and Clan Carthy.

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Betty Ann Blaine, Executive Director

UAP Project Officer

Sam Dowding, NGO Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to motivate at-risk adolescents who participate in the project to complete their post-primary education, and to embark on a path to becoming responsible and productive citizens.

Status Update:

YOU's mentoring program continues to impact positively on the lives of those adolescents involved. Three mentor/mentee workshops were held this period covering the topics: Warning Signs for Adolescents in Trouble, Adolescent Health and Well-Being, and Adolescent Sexual Attitudes and Behavior. The pilot Group Mentoring program at Kingston Comprehensive High continued with 82 students on roll, including 31 new registrants. The students have provided YOU with appreciative feedback for the positive benefits they have gained. The group has been named the best-behaved 8th grade in the school, and co-incidentally has won all their inter-school football games. The mentor Handbook was updated this quarter, and re-issued.

At Excelsior High, 62 more adolescents have been registered in a new peer counseling training program, to supplement the 28 graduates from the first such training. The earlier graduates continue to function as peer counselors at Excelsior. The peer counseling training has included a session this quarter on Reproductive Health. Average attendance of 70 adolescent has been noted at the once or twice monthly adolescent workshops implemented this quarter by YOU. Five parenting workshops were held this period, with an average attendance of 50 parents.

Both teachers and the 76 students who participate in the homework program at Merl Grove High continue to praise the program for its positive results.

YOU celebrated its 8th anniversary in November, with a Church Service, and Fund-raising breakfast. Other fund-raising activities included a benefit performance of *Yard 99* (a play), and the annual Christmas Card project. The organization also participated in Parents' Week Activities with the Coalition for Better Parenting, in UNICEF's Mid Term Review, and provided mentoring consultancy services to Marcus Garvey Technical High School in St. Ann's Bay, and at Glenmuir High School in Clarendon.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Mel Nathan Institute for Development and Social Research

Project Title:

Partnership for Mature Personhood

Brief History of Organization

MNI is a human and community development agency of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Established in 1978, it has a history of assisting young people in depressed inner city communities. The mission of the organization includes "to promote the advancement of deprived communities in both urban and rural areas, to provide educational opportunities, including basic, preparatory and vocational facilities, and to facilitate human development, as an integral part of community development." MNI operates several programs, some of which are commercial, including catering, auto repair, woodworking, and garment manufacturing. The social programs include the Hannah Town community development program, a Preparatory School, and a Community College.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$8,800,000
Amount Disbursed to 12/31/99: Ja\$7,413,075

Period of Sub-Grant:
September 15, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Hannah Town, North Street and Pretoria Road (all in Kingston) and Seafield/Carron Hall in St. Mary.

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Jane Dodman, Associate Executive Director
2. Aldin Bellinfantie, Manager, Consulting Services
3. Michelle Bennett, Coordinator

UAP Project Officer

Sandra Cooper, Training Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to equip adolescents for mature personhood through a holistic program targeting inner-city and rural at-risk youth.

Status Update:

For the first time, the program at Edith Dalton James Community College has had to turn away students because of over-subscription. 150 students were registered this period. Training began in September with a two week Youth Development Training program, through which the students were exposed to all the skill areas, as well as life-coping skills. There has been a consequent noticeable improvement in the students' attitudes, and attendance at classes.

In addition to literacy classes at North Street and Pretoria Road, drama, art & craft, and music are being used to promote learning. The shift system in the schools has affected the attendance at the program, especially at Pretoria Road.

In Hannah Town, the computer education program has benefitted from the addition of two new computers. Because of the violence in the communities surrounding this center, MNI has had to start a satellite program at Kingston Comprehensive High and Central All-Age Schools. These program allow participants who were reluctant to cross "borders" to continue in the program. Remedial education, with a specialist reading teacher, are the main focus of these satellite programs.

The benefits of the program in the inner city communities has been seen in the results obtained from the recent GSAT examinations, where the number of passes from schools such as Chetolah Park Primary has increased threefold. The adolescents are also eagerly looking forward to the initiation of the UAP Football League, and to this end are diligently practicing. Efforts are also being made to obtain sponsorship of the team.

Staff training in the areas of Conflict Management, and Communication Skills were held for the Carron Hall and Sea-field staff. MNI program staff coordinated these sessions.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Ashe Caribbean Performing Arts Foundation

Project Title:

SOLID YOUTHS - Through the Performing Arts

Brief History of Organization

Ashe is a non-profit performing arts company and school which was started in 1992, with 80 members. Ashe's mission is "to foster development of youth in Jamaica and the Caribbean region through the Performing Arts by developing disciplined, creative individuals in achieving excellence thereby preserving the rich cultural heritage of the region in nation-building". It has won 7 international acting awards, and 4 Jamaica Music awards for excellence in the performing arts. Currently, Ashe has over three hundred members on roll, in two groups: the Ashe Ensemble (a professional company) with 35 members, and the Ashe Academy with over 275 members. Ashe serves mainly inner-city youth in Kingston.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$7,730,000
Amount Disbursed to 12/31/99: Ja\$6,356,431

Period of Sub-Grant:
September 15, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Ashe Academy (Nannyville) and Hanover Street, Kingston

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Joseph Robinson, Director

UAP Project Officer

Frank Valva

Project Goal or Purpose

to create, through the use of the performing arts, confident, disciplined Jamaican adolescents who have the capacity to contribute positively to the society and economy.

Status Update:

Ashe held its first Academy Awards Banquet this period, at which some 100 students of 3000 nominees, received awards in categories such as best actor, best singer, dancer, best academic record for the year, best attendance, most improved student, and member of the year. Many students left the occasion with improved self-confidence and self-motivation to work hard and become winners. Fifteen parents helped to plan the banquet, which served to strengthen the parent body's relationship with the Academy.

The experience of the Awards Banquet provided opportunities for the adolescents to add new words associated with the event to their vocabularies. In addition, valuable experience was gained in helping to plan the budget for the exercise. Literacy test results in this quarter showed that 58 students passed the JAMAL level IV test, with the girls out-performing the boys. The latest tests now show that over 92% of Ashe's students are literate, up from 81% in February 1999.

Ashe has had to terminate its services in Downtown Kingston, at the SDC and in Hannah Town, due to inadequate budgets from its major donors. Students from these sites have been encouraged to attend classes at the Nannyville center, and over 40 have been doing so. With anticipated assistance from the Institute of Jamaica, the programs in Hannah Town and downtown Kingston are expected to re-start in January 2000.

The official launch of the Ashe manual "Preparing for the Vibes in a World of Sexuality" was held on November 18. The manual is currently in use in over 40 schools in Jamaica, with the Ministry of Education taking a major role in promoting its use.

Efforts are continuing to identify and garner financial support to continue Ashe's programs, and to provide transportation for its members. To this end, the Academy is planning a series of fund-raising efforts.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Jamaica Association for the Deaf

Project Title:

Youth Theatre Workshops

Brief History of Organization

The Jamaica Association for the Deaf was founded in 1938, and is the oldest voluntary agency of its kind in the Caribbean. It currently operates three rural and five urban schools to provide early stimulation, vocational and academic education to the deaf. Clinical services such as hearing assessment, educational placement of deaf children in schools, dispensing of hearing aids are also provided, in addition to in-service training for teachers in the JAD schools, and social services such as adult deaf clubs and interpreting services in courts of law.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$4,570,000
Amount Disbursed to 12/31/99: Ja\$3,374,499

Period of Sub-Grant:
July 1, 1998 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity
Kingston

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Iris Soutar, Executive Officer
2. Shirley Reid

UAP Project Officer
Sandra Cooper, Training Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

The creation, development, execution evaluation and sustainment of a permanent Youth Theatre Workshop for Deaf Youth in Jamaica

Status Update:

The project witnessed exciting growth in student interest and participation in the last quarter. Registration now stands at 230, with regular attendance by 170 students. The performance in Montego Bay in August, and the consequent better understanding of the project and its aims could be seen as major factors in this improvement.

Based on tests administered at the Kingston and May Pen locations, it appears that the mathematics scores have improved over last year's results, but the written expressive and written receptive language skills have remained stagnant. The targeted number of hours training in literacy and vocational education for this quarter were achieved. Topics covered in personal and family development counseling sessions were HIV/AIDS, STDs, and male-female relationships.

The class schedules were revised in this quarter due to analysis of the attendance pattern, identification of reasons therefor, and availability of locations. Classes are now held at three locations - Danny Williams School for the Deaf (4 times weekly), Edna Manley College(4 times weekly) and in May Pen (once weekly).

Work was well underway in the quarter on the production "Street Signs" which was originally scheduled for December 1999. However, after the classes had presented their work at a review workshop with the Artistic Director in November, it was decided to postpone the performances until March 2000. Since the performances will serve as a major fund-raising event, it is essential that the skits and dances be of exceptional quality. Areas to be focused on in the next few months include coordination of movement by the dancers, and more creativity in the arrangements, while the stage management needs to tighten up the scene changes.

One parents meeting was held in October, and this provided parent and guardians the opportunity to discuss their wards' performance and abilities.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Sam Sharpe Teachers' College

Project Title:

Sam Sharpe Centre for Child and Adolescent Development

Brief History of Organization

The Sam Sharpe Teacher's College is one of only two major tertiary educational institutions in Western Jamaica. Started in 1975, it prepares teachers for work in the primary and secondary schools. SSTC will be associated with the Montego Bay Community Home for Girls, which was founded in 1978, in the implementation of this project.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$4,600,000

Amount Disbursed
to 12/31/99: Ja\$3,388,571

Period of Sub-Grant:

June 1, 1998 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Granville, St. James and adjoining communities

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Cecile Walden, Principal
2. Alma Williams, Coordinator

UAP Project Officer

Sam Dowding, NGO Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to enable at-risk adolescents with special needs to become literate and skilled, and thus employable, positive individuals and leaders within their families and communities.

Status Update:

The first anniversary of the project was celebrated with a Church Service in Granville, and a Symposium at the College. At the Church Service, the students and teachers played all the major roles, including reading the lessons, outlining the project, and rendering musical pieces. At the Symposium, students presented on the topics: Education and Training is the appropriate route for Academic Training, Political Perspective, Sport and Leisure Awareness, Development of Business, and Development of Music.

The project displayed its handicraft items at the UAP Workshop in September, and at "Mento Yard" in Seville, St. Ann during Heritage Week.

The Sam Sharpe UAP Marching Band has continued to excel, and has participated in several activities in the period: National Tourism Week Rally, Opening of the new NIS office, the SSTC graduation ceremony, and the All that Heritage & Jazz Festival Craft and Cultural Fair. Members are being groomed to take the music theory and practical examinations for the Royal School so Music, as well as CXC subjects. Overall, 21 students in the program will sit CXC subjects in June 2000.

Computer classes have been started for the adolescents and the groups have been separated according to skill level: junior and senior.

The Under 16 Football Team is eagerly looking forward to the inauguration of the UAP Football league, and has continued their training diligently.

Mandeville Women's Centre - YAP

Violence in Schools by :

- **Asheba Little**
- **Gavin Tyndale**
- **Emmanuel Little**

Youngster - just cool
Stop the violence in our schools

MUSIC

Don't bring the guns and the knives
Don't take another's life

Stop the killing and the fighting
The violence and the crime

We no like the crime and the violence

Don't destroy our neighbourhood
We want to enjoy our child.

The above dub poem was written by the students named above and presented at our July end of term celebration.

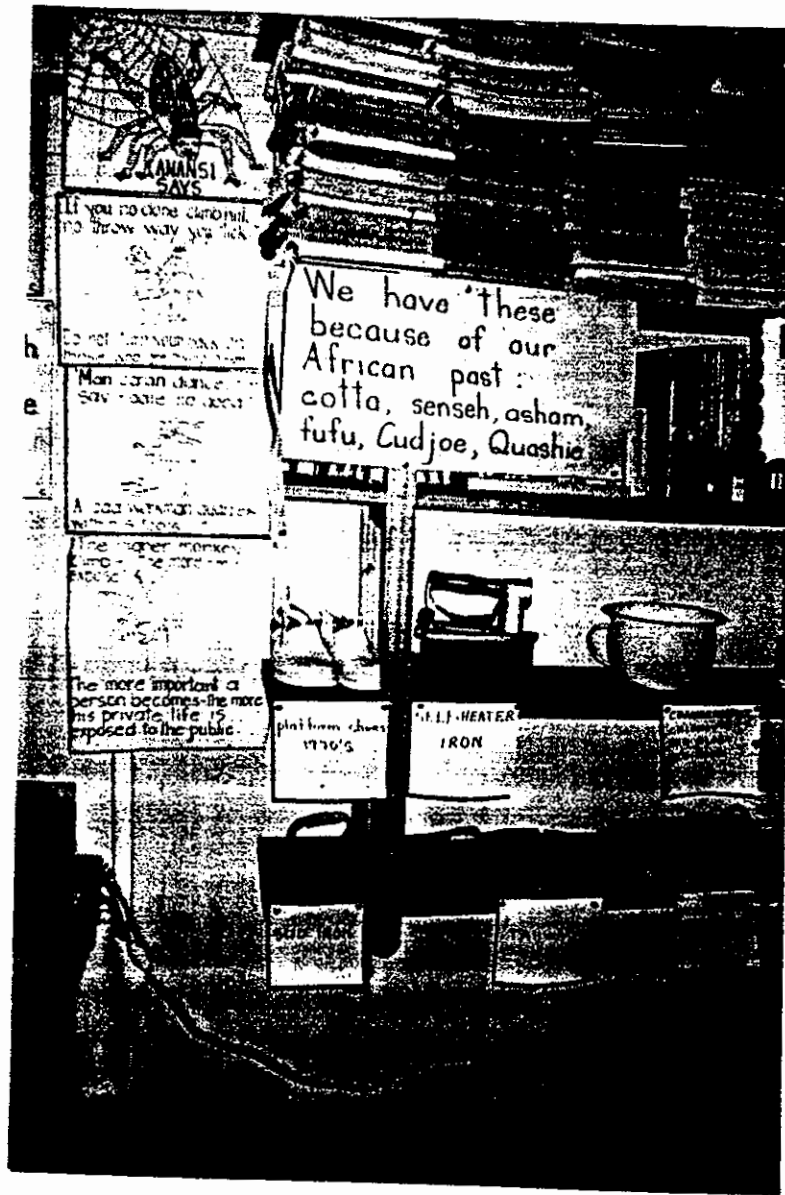
B. Phillips (Mrs.)
Mandeville - YAP

Mentor Handbook



Youth Opportunities Unlimited

• Mentoring Programmes • Lifeskills Training • Parenting Education



"Our Heritage"

RURAL FAMILY SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

HERITAGE WEEK EXHIBIT

Junior English Topic: I Spy.



C---



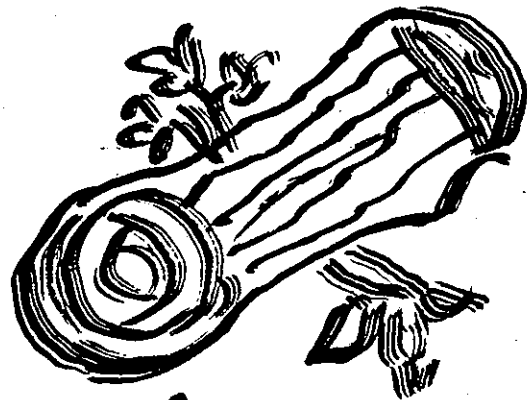
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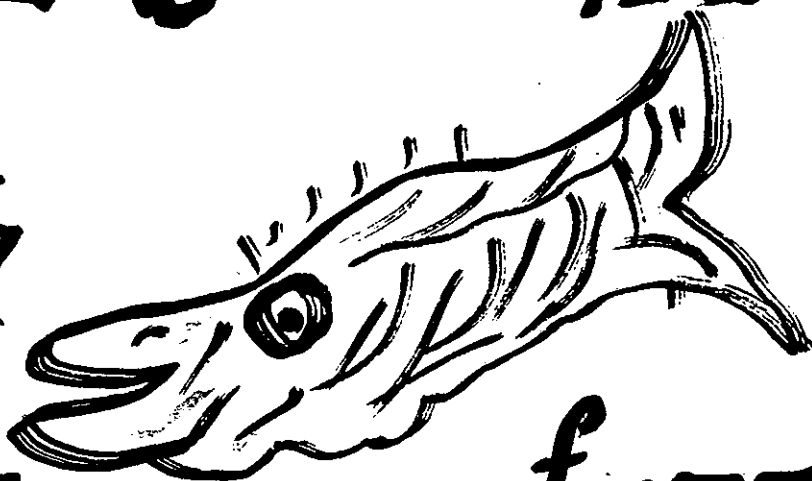
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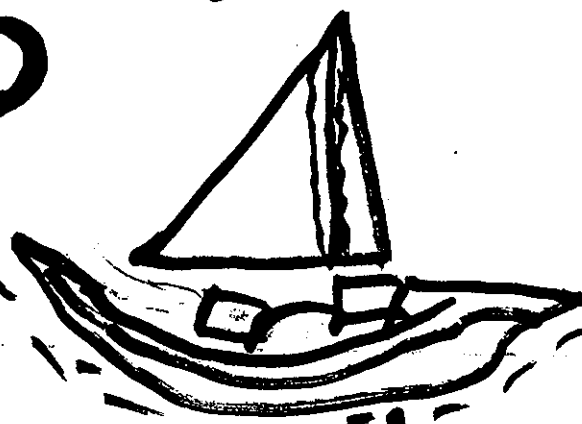
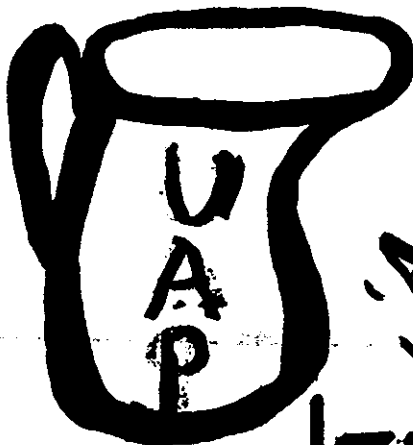
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RURAL FAMILY SUPPLY STORE

Name Anthony Brooks

Date November 8, 1999

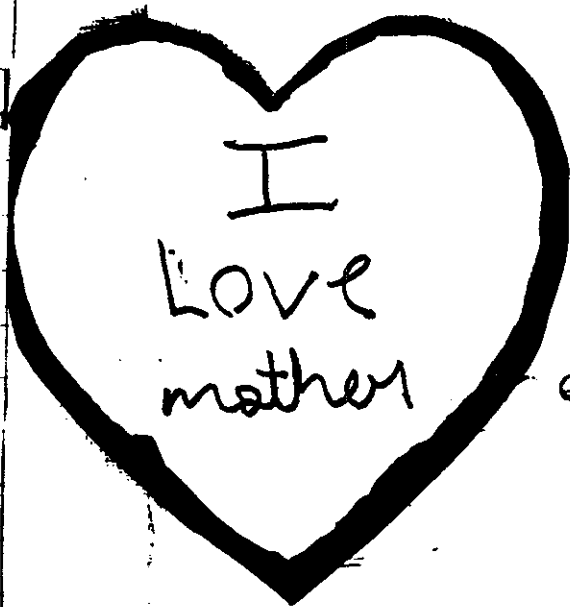
I love my aunty. To my ant

I do a lot of things for she.

My aunty is a loving woman

I show respect for my aunty winsome

She do a lot of things for me



from anthony to winsome

RARAL FAMILY SUPPORT ORG.

YOU reaches out to teenagers

□ Mentor programme offers guidance

KERIL WRIGHT

STAFF REPORTER

WESTERN BUREAU

FOR MANY ADOLESCENTS, it is much easier to communicate and get along with friends during their teen year than with their own parents and other family members.

For the past eight years, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), the national mentoring programme, has been matching adult volunteer mentors who receive training from Y.O.U. with adolescents who are still in school and deemed "at risk".

The mentoring programme presently serves more than 900 adolescents, mainly from single parent families in inner-city communities, from 13 schools in Kingston and Portmore, St. Catherine. According to the youngsters and their mentors, it has been successful.

Natalie Fowler, an 18-year-old upper sixth St. Andrew High student, who has been a part of the mentoring programme since she was in third form, said it has helped to shape her life.

"The programme has so much to offer," she told *Generation Today* last week. "I have learned that it is all about improving me and then my relationship with others will also improve."

She has been so inspired by the programme and her mentor Betty Ann Blaine, that she one day wants to take her mentor's place as head of the organisation.

"I have asked her," she said with a laugh.

"I respect her a lot, she added. "She is a mentor in the truest sense of the word, somebody to live up to not somebody on the telephone or on TV. Somebody real."

Great influence

According to Natalie, she joined Y.O.U. out of "sheer curiosity" as she really was not an "at risk" child. However, it has offered her so much, including the summer enrichment programme, which she said was enjoyable this year.

"Everybody was so into it," she explained.

Similarly, 18-year-old Milton Scott gives credit to the programme, which he said, has greatly influenced him.

"It has been real fun and uplifting to my life," he explained.

He said his mentor has become like family to him and has taught him a lot.

"He has become an older



brother and has made me see the benefits of studying hard in school in order to be successful later on in life," he said.

Satisfaction

The mentors have a similar story to tell.

"It has been the best experience that I have had," said Rene Garel, describing role as mentor of 16-year-old Carena.

She said she was first assigned to Carena in 1996 when the girl was just 13. The relationship "clicked" immediately.

"We hit it off with a bang," she said, admitting that she has heard of assignments which didn't work out and was glad she and Carena had developed what may turn out to be a life long friendship.

"I feel we will be friends for a long time to come," the 31-year-old said of her relationship with Carena.

She said she would encourage persons to become mentors as it provides immeasurable personal satisfaction.

"The idea is to guide (the youngsters), share your life with them and provide some social exposure and most of all to be a friend," she explained. "I have learnt that there is a lot you can give of yourself without giving monetarily."

Patrick McDonald, another mentor, agreed.

"(Y.O.U.) tells you you can make a difference in somebody's life," the 30-year-old said.

He said he realised just how true this was after he met teachers of Damian and Milton, then age 15, two of the youngsters to whom he was mentor. He was told how much they had changed for the better since they joined the programme.

He explained that he has been their mentor since 1997 and that, although that relationship officially ended when the boys graduated from high school, he believes he and the boys will remain friends.

"I have tried to instill in them academic discipline, how to live their lives with good values, relate my own life experience to them and teach them the importance of ambition," he said.

Damian, 17, has gone on to tertiary education and Milton, aged 18, is in lower sixth form at high school.